

REMARKS

Claims 2-6 and 8-12 remain in the application. Claims 2-6, 8, and 11-12 are hereby amended. No new matter is being added.

Claim Rejections--35 USC 103

Original claims 2 and 8-10 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Kalivas et al, in view of Kundu et al, further in view of Borneo et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection in relation to the claims as hereby amended.

Amended claim 2 recites as follows.

2. A method for temporally filtering a video sequence, the method comprising:

using object motion estimation for arbitrarily shaped segments to align corresponding pixels between at least two frames;

determining segments that are no longer adjacent to a segment boundary based on said object motion estimation;

reducing impact of color blur from said segments that are no longer adjacent by adjusting weights assigned to one or more frames for pixels that lie within a blur region near said segment boundary; and

computing a weighted average of color values of said corresponding pixels.

(Emphasis added.)

As shown above, claim 2 now recites **“determining segments that are no longer adjacent to a segment boundary based on said object motion**

estimation” and **“reducing impact of color blur from said segments that are no longer adjacent by adjusting weights assigned to one or more frames for pixels that lie within a blur region near said segment boundary”**.

(Emphasis added.) In other words, the claimed invention now clearly requires using the results of object motion estimation to determine previously-neighboring segments no longer adjacent to a segment boundary, and reducing impact of color blur from said segments that are no longer adjacent.

Regarding Kundu et al and Kalivas et al, the office action states that the combination of Kundu et al and Kalivas et al “do not teach the limitation of adjusting pixel weights in the boundary regions.” (Office Action, page 5.)

Regarding Borneo et al, the office action states that Figure 4 of Borneo et al “shows a weighting function for pixels at threshold intervals of T_h away from $CENTER_j$, the center of the working window. The weights are halved at each threshold distance [0064].” (Office Action, page 5.) Thus, Borneo et al is cited for a weighting function that reduces the weighting based on a distance away from a center of a working window.

However, Borneo et al does not disclose or suggest **“determining segments that are no longer adjacent to a segment boundary based on said object motion estimation”** and **“reducing impact of color blur from said segments that are no longer adjacent by adjusting weights assigned to one or more frames for pixels that lie within a blur region near said segment boundary”**. (Emphasis added.)

Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that claim 2 now overcomes this rejection.

Claims 3-5 depend from amended claim 2. Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 3-5 are now patentable for at least the reasons discussed above in relation to claim 2.

Claim 6 is hereby amended to recite similar limitations as amended claim 2. Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that claim 6 is now patentable for at least the reasons discussed above in relation to claim 2.

Claim 8 is hereby amended to recite similar limitations as amended claim 2. Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that claim 8 is now patentable for at least the reasons discussed above in relation to claim 2.

Claims 9-12 depend from amended claim 8. Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 9-12 are now patentable for at least the reasons discussed above in relation to claim 8.

Conclusion

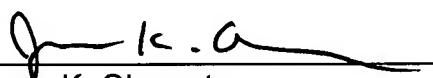
For the above discussed reasons, applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims, as hereby amended, are now patentably distinguished over the cited art.

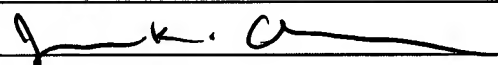
The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned for any questions.
Favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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